



The Alberta Chess Association

Planning Meeting Agenda

November 30, 2008, 10 a.m.

Red Deer College, 100 College Blvd., Room 2301

Attendance:

Present: Mike Sekuloff, Rick Pedersen, Aaron Sequillion, Kent Karapita, Micah Hughey, Vlad Rekhson, Richard Pua, Geoff Newton, Dale Haessel, Jim Daniluk, Ford Wong, Tony Ficzero

1. Presidents address

Mike made some opening remarks and reminded everyone to get their travel cheques. Mike welcomed all the new members of the executive.

2. ACA 2009 Schedule (see attachment)

Micah wanted to move Item 10 up to item 2. Jim wanted to know if there was a treasurers report. Richard didn't prepare one but is able to answer the questions. The last casino made \$82,5xx. After casino expenses it should be about \$80,000. Next casino is in 2010. Ford made motion that the board move that Tony Ficzero is the new casino chairperson and will be able to sign on the ACA's behalf. Micah seconded, all voted in favour. Vlad passed out a handout for the 4th Edmonton International Open. We then started to work on the tournament schedule for 2009. Micah made motion to pass the schedule, Vlad seconded, all approved.

3. Tournament Fees

Mike Sekuloff suggested we could get money back to ACA by having a tournament fee for all ACA tournaments (except Trumpeter this year). He would like to try this for one or two years. Aaron wants to see higher prize fund by having higher entrance fees. Micah is in favour of entry fee of \$40 to \$50. Alberta has lowest entries in the country. Geoff thinks \$50 too high. Mike passed around his proposal (single copy). Mike said we should apply this to all ACA events that we have, except the junior tournaments and the Battle of Alberta, or Alberta Closed. The percentage that would come back to the ACA would go into general revenue. Vlad was against this idea. It shouldn't be increased very much and he thinks it would decrease tournament attendance. He also mentioned the recession being a factor. Richard also agreed with Vlad. If there was any increase in entry fees, it should go towards the prize fund, and not the ACA. Micah said it would increase prizes. Micah made motion that ACA entry fees be

set at \$40, and the ACA will keep 15% seconded by Aaron. Discussion – Vlad said a \$15 increase would create a problem. He suggested trying a few events to see how it goes. Mike says we need to increase revenue to help keep the ED position. Rick Pedersen asked how Tony's position is funded, Mike explained and said the position ran for 3 years, not guaranteed after that, and the money came from ASRPWF for those 3 years. Jim – thought that it would be too much of an increase to be done at once. He also suggested that the Alberta Open should be \$5 higher as it costs more to run. Jim suggested a friendly amendment that all fees go to \$30 with \$5 going to ACA. Micah said that maybe all the qualifiers be set at \$35. Ford says increased entry fees would be good as it would show more money coming in as it makes it more attractive to ASRPWF to show increased revenues. Richard suggested the increase should go to prize fund, not ACA. Jim said the Alberta Open has always been undercharged. Micah asked Jim if he would change his friendly amendment so that Adult Entry fees for ACA Open tournaments will be \$30 minimum except Alberta Open will be \$40, \$5 per entry from every entry fees going to ACA, and junior discount at the discretion of the organizer effective Jan 1. Kent said if we leave juniors out of the motion, it gives organizers the opportunity to market outside of the area of the tournament. In favour 6, opposed 2, abstentions 2. Motion to break for 1 hour starting at 12:10 p.m.

4. Merchandise (President) – tabled to next meeting

5. Boardsuite Presentation (E.D.) – tabled to next meeting

6. Old Business

ACA Insurance (E.D.) – Tony discussed the need for insurance for the ACA, two types of insurance; public liability, and board members insurance. Jim proposed that we present a motion and vote on it in principle. Mike suggested that the ACA needs insurance asap. Tony will pursue price and see if we can arrange a group arrangement with the clubs. Micah made motion to pursue insurance, Aaron seconded. All in favour. Vote passed 11-0

7. Community Spirit Program (E.D.)

Tony read the report and solicited feedback. Tony spoke about the cash box program. Vlad motioned to let Tony spend up to \$800 for cash boxes, Aaron seconded. Discussion Rick Pedersen suggested buying only 10. Dale suggested adding a Paypal option to the website. Micah made an amendment for Tony to buy 65 cash boxes and try in Calgary. It was put to a vote. Motion passed 11-0

8. ACA phone number

Mike asked Ford if the ACA could have an ACA phone out of Tony's office & have it paid for out of Tony's expense money. Ford and everyone agreed that this was acceptable.

9. Budget concerns & considerations (Canadian Open, Canadian Junior)
Casino made \$80,000 after expenses. Treasurer reported General account \$27,072.61, Casino Account \$28,125.01, plus the next casino cheque. Also, ASRPWF gives \$11,500 per year. There is approx \$35,000 available in general revenue right now. Micah handed out the bid he submitted at the 2008 Canadian Open for the 2009 Canadian Open. Micah motioned that the ACA commit \$60,000 maximum to the Canadian Open, seconded Aaron. Discussion: Richard asked about the prize fund \$25k, and the \$3k guarantee. Micah explained that the \$3k was there to cover the prize fund in the event that entries fell short to make the \$25k. Micah has raised \$1,200 from private donations so far and there are plans to solicit corporate sponsorship. General discussion took place around the table about how much should come from casino vs our general revenue. Micah put forth a motion to ask the ACA for \$55k towards to 2009 Canadian Open organizing committee of Casino money. Jim seconded. Ford asked if the board was happy with this, leaving the ACA with approx \$53k for the next two years. The motion was put to vote: 9-1, motion passed. Ford said we forgot to set the budget amount for 2009. Vlad proposed \$110k. Ford explained that we do this to set a maximum. Motion made by Vlad for 2009 budget: \$110k., 2nd by Micah. Vote: 10-0, motion passed. We then discussed the bid submitted by Simon Ong and John Piera for the 2009 Canadian Junior. Tony said that he had met with members of the Calgary Junior Chess Club, and agreed to be TD for the event, but did not discuss how much his fee would be. Tony said he would be willing to be TD for the ACA fee of \$35 per day, and proposed that we reduce the amount of the TD expense for this event to reflect this. Micah made motion to approve the expenditure of \$1,105 for the Canadian Junior, seconded by Aaron. The motion was put to a vote: 8-1, 1 abstention. Motion passed. Jim asked that the CJCC pay \$100 rent per day. Dale expressed he was opposed to the dates for the Canadian Junior as it would be difficult to get players from outside of Alberta during the school year. Dale suggested a date like sometime in June. Tony said that ideally this event is run during the Christmas break for obvious reasons, and that if a Canadian Junior was going to take place, it had to be done 60 days prior to the date of the World Junior which is scheduled for August 2009. Kent asked who is responsible for this event. Mike said it was the responsibility of the organizers, and the ACA's only obligation was how much funding we would allow them.
- New business: Vlad told us that IM Porper would like to do some work with the ACA, such as simuls, lectures, etc. Mike asked him to send a proposal to the ACA and we would evaluate it.

10. Motion to Adjourn by Micah, 2nd Rick Pederson, finished at 3:35

Minutes recorded by Tony Ficzero, approved by Rick Pedersen